

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 29 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for May 2004 totaled 36.6 million pounds, down 29 percent from last year according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. May production was up 6 percent from April's 34.5 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-May 2004 period totaled 191 million pounds, down 23 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.60 billion pounds in May, down 9 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in May 2003. Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.84 million head, down 13 percent from May 2003. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,204 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.8 million pounds, 13 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 64,900 head, down 15 percent from May 2003. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 355 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.50 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.58 million head, 3 percent below May 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound below the previous year, at 266 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 13.0 million pounds, was down 14 percent from May 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 188,500 head, 15 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 1 pound from May a year ago. January to May 2004 commercial red meat production was 18.4 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.